

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 02463 310425Z
ACTION A-01

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KINGSTON FOR CARTER PARTY

DEPARTMENT FOR A

WHITE HOUSE FOR KATHY CADE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, CS (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: ESCUELA MARTA SABORIO

REF: KINGSTON 2772

1. THE ESCUELA DE ENSENAZA ESPECIAL IN ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA WAS FOUNDED IN 1970 THROUGH THE DETERMINED EFFORTS OF MARTA SABORIO, WHO WAS THEN A DEPUTY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL SINCE ITS FOUNDING HAS BEEN CARMEN SABORIO, NIECE OF MARTA. CARMEN HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN SINCE 1940 WHEN SHE COMMENCED HER STUDIES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION.

2. THE ESCUELA MARTA SABORIO PRESENTLY SERVES APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED RETARDED OR LEARNING-DISABILITY CHILDREN AND FIFTY DEAF CHILDREN. IN ADDITION, THE SCHOOL OFFERS
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 02463 310425Z

SPEECH THERAPY TO CHILDREN IN THE REGULAR SCHOOL SYSTEM.

3. THE TWENTY-MEMBER STAFF OF THE SCHOOL IS KNOWN FOR ITS DEDICATION AND PERSONAL COMMITMENT. THEY ARE DETERMINED TO UPGRADE THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN ALAJUELA AND HOPE TO MAKE "MARTA SABORIO" THE BEST INSTITUTION OF ITS KIND IN COSTA

RICA. THE CHILDREN RECEIVE SPECIAL CLASSES WEEKLY IN ART, SWIMMING, DANCE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION. ON THE PREMISE THAT "SPECIAL" CHILDREN NEED SPECIAL ATTENTION, THE SCHOOL ALSO PROVIDES MANY "EXTRAS" NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE IN THE REGULAR SCHOOL SYSTEM: A FREE DENTAL CLINIC, A WORKSHOP, A LAB KITCHEN FOR THE USE OF THE STUDENTS. EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO HELP THE CHILD MEET ALL OF HIS PARTICULAR NEEDS.

4. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER BERYL "LUISA" HORTON, OF DECATUR, GEORGIA, HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE SCHOOL FOR THREE YEARS. BERYL IS A 1973 GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA WHERE SHE MAJORED IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILD. SHE IS RETURNING TO THE U.S. IN JUNE.

5. PRIMARILY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF BERYL, MARTA SABORIO HAS HAD AN ENRICHING EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE WITH LIVSEY SCHOOL IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. IN 1976, TEN CHILDREN, TWO TEACHERS AND THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR SPENT A MONTH IN GEORGIA ON AN EXCHANGE VISIT SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNITY OF ALAJUELA. IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, TWENTY CHILDREN, TWO TEACHERS AND THE DIRECTOR OF LIVSEY SCHOOL RETURNED THE VISIT.

6. ON NOVEMBER 2, 1976, BERYL HORTON CONDUCTED A MOCK ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE STUDENTS OF MARTA SABORIO. PRESIDENT CARTER WON HANDILY.

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PAGE 03 SAN JO 02463 310425Z

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